



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 6311.0

NOON 9 APRIL 1981

## WAGE RATES INDEXES, AUSTRALIA, JANUARY 1981 (PRELIMINARY)

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Geoff Winter on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra (062) 52 6627 or State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

In January 1981 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate for Australia for adult males increased by \$6.65 to \$193.40. The rate for adult females increased by \$6.37 to \$180.06.

In the year ended January 1981 the adult male wage rate index rose by 9.5 per cent, approximately 83 per cent of the rise being attributable to indexation increases. For adult females the corresponding figures were 11.7 per cent and 70 per cent.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

More information on these statistics of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females will appear later in the monthly publication *Wage Rates, Australia* (6312.0) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

#### Definitions, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. The indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of *wages* as distinct from *salaries*; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, **all figures shown in this publication are subject to revision**. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this publication.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying, and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month for the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

#### Related publications

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

n.e.i. not elsewhere included.

R. J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES(a): ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of—	Adult males					Adult females				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change %	Index nos. (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index nos. (b)	Wage rates \$	Annual change %	Index nos. (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index nos. (b)
1979—										
December	168.81	4.9	597.7	421.99	596.5	154.37	3.7	775.4	389.14	775.6
1980—										
January	176.66	9.7	625.5	441.62	624.2	161.25	8.3	810.0	406.48	810.2
February	176.79	9.7	626.0	441.96	624.7	161.30	8.3	810.2	406.60	810.4
March	177.20	10.0	627.4	443.03	626.2	161.45	8.3	811.0	406.99	811.2
April	177.44	10.0	628.3	443.63	627.0	161.94	8.7	813.4	408.21	813.7
May	177.70	10.1	629.2	444.11	627.7	161.98	8.7	813.6	408.31	813.8
June	177.74	6.7	629.3	444.20	627.8	162.01	5.4	813.8	408.40	814.0
July	185.46	11.1	656.7	463.50	655.1	170.94	11.2	858.6	430.89	858.9
August	185.59	11.1	657.1	463.83	655.6	171.26	11.4	860.3	431.71	860.5
September	186.16	11.3	659.1	465.29	657.7	172.29	12.0	865.4	434.30	865.6
October	186.66	11.5	660.9	466.58	659.5	173.38	12.7	870.9	437.05	871.1
November	186.70	10.8	661.1	466.70	659.6	173.54	12.6	871.7	437.45	871.9
December	186.75	10.6	661.3	466.82	659.8	173.69	12.5	872.5	437.84	872.7
1981—										
January	193.40	9.5	684.8	483.42	683.3	180.06	11.7	904.4	453.88	904.7

(a) Includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1. (b) Base: Weighted average minimum wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

**TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 JANUARY 1981**  
Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change % Australia	Index nos.(a) Australia
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Mining and quarrying(b)(c)	247.65	187.78	229.70	182.85	193.67	199.85	228.30	5.8	808.4
Manufacturing—									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.(c)	180.94	188.99	196.88	186.87	187.69	184.74	185.60	8.5	657.2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	178.72	179.56	180.99	178.82	183.22	173.73	179.23	12.8	634.6
Food, drink and tobacco(c)	186.67	190.85	190.36	183.20	191.74	184.79	188.62	10.0	667.9
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	186.25	177.70	193.41	178.37	176.57	175.15	183.55	12.3	649.9
Paper, printing, etc.(c)	188.40	197.27	210.48	194.65	196.84	184.22	193.92	9.5	686.6
Other manufacturing(c)	188.44	185.89	188.76	183.62	179.18	177.09	186.40	10.0	660.0
<i>All manufacturing groups(c)</i>	<i>183.69</i>	<i>187.30</i>	<i>193.72</i>	<i>184.95</i>	<i>184.66</i>	<i>181.62</i>	<i>186.01</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>658.6</i>
Building and construction(c)	212.68	214.06	199.74	208.85	191.09	195.11	207.61	9.5	735.1
Railway services(c)	170.32	163.98	194.04	182.49	168.22	188.94	176.36	8.1	624.5
Road and air transport(c)	197.66	186.29	186.51	184.68	197.13	189.77	191.71	9.0	678.8
Shipping and stevedoring(c)(d)	234.69	233.70	224.91	221.35	234.03	228.17	230.77	9.8	817.1
Communication	223.98	225.52	223.73	221.17	225.16	217.44	224.00	8.1	793.1
Wholesale and retail trade(c)	192.83	195.24	194.07	190.58	187.95	192.56	193.02	10.6	683.5
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	195.81	192.56	201.98	178.81	184.78	203.71	193.76	9.5	686.1
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	181.29	178.07	180.11	172.54	165.51	171.01	177.98	11.2	630.2
<b>All industry groups(c)</b>	<b>194.08</b>	<b>192.49</b>	<b>198.14</b>	<b>190.81</b>	<b>188.26</b>	<b>191.20</b>	<b>193.40</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>684.8</b>

(a) Base: Weighted average minimum weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (b) For mining, wage rates are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (c) For States other than Western Australia, includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1. (d) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, engineers and other officers.

**TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 JANUARY 1981**  
Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
WAGE RATES (cents)							
Mining and quarrying(a)(b)	692.76	469.45	606.37	457.14	507.48	510.88	616.05
Manufacturing—							
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.(b)	452.51	472.81	492.51	465.18	469.64	461.84	464.21
Textiles, clothing and footwear	446.79	448.91	452.46	445.05	458.04	434.32	448.09
Food, drink and tobacco(b)	467.32	477.12	475.91	458.01	479.34	461.96	471.76
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	465.62	444.26	483.54	445.93	441.42	437.86	458.88
Paper, printing, etc.(b)	470.99	493.88	530.78	486.63	502.04	460.56	485.87
Other manufacturing(b)	472.76	465.15	471.89	460.14	447.96	443.09	466.94
<i>All manufacturing groups(b)</i>	<i>459.70</i>	<i>468.51</i>	<i>484.63</i>	<i>462.58</i>	<i>462.28</i>	<i>454.09</i>	<i>465.39</i>
Building and construction(b)	532.50	535.15	499.35	520.15	477.74	487.78	519.30
Railway services(b)	425.79	410.37	485.10	456.22	420.55	472.35	441.01
Road and air transport(b)	494.16	465.72	466.27	461.70	492.82	474.42	479.28
Communication	586.77	589.24	584.57	585.64	588.30	569.62	586.58
Wholesale and retail trade(b)	482.07	488.10	485.17	476.44	469.87	481.41	482.56
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	499.17	494.60	511.05	455.79	466.86	517.19	493.65
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	453.22	445.18	450.28	431.35	413.77	427.52	444.96
<b>All industry groups(b)</b>	<b>486.52</b>	<b>480.25</b>	<b>495.43</b>	<b>475.38</b>	<b>470.00</b>	<b>473.95</b>	<b>483.42</b>
INDEX NUMBERS(c)							
Mining and quarrying(a)(b)	979.2	663.5	857.1	646.1	717.3	722.1	870.7
Manufacturing—							
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.(b)	639.6	668.3	696.1	657.5	663.8	652.8	656.1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	631.5	634.5	639.5	629.1	647.4	613.9	633.3
Food, drink and tobacco(b)	660.5	674.4	672.7	647.4	677.5	653.0	666.8
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	658.1	627.9	683.4	630.3	623.9	618.9	648.6
Paper, printing, etc.(b)	665.7	698.1	750.2	687.8	709.6	651.0	686.7
Other manufacturing(b)	668.2	657.5	667.0	650.4	633.2	626.3	660.0
<i>All manufacturing groups(b)</i>	<i>649.7</i>	<i>662.2</i>	<i>685.0</i>	<i>653.8</i>	<i>653.4</i>	<i>641.8</i>	<i>657.8</i>
Building and construction(b)	752.6	756.4	705.8	735.2	675.2	689.4	734.0
Railway services(b)	601.8	580.0	685.7	644.8	594.4	667.6	623.3
Road and air transport(b)	698.5	658.3	659.0	652.6	696.6	670.6	677.4
Communication	829.4	832.8	826.2	827.8	831.5	805.1	829.1
Wholesale and retail trade(b)	681.4	689.9	685.8	673.4	664.1	680.4	682.1
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	705.5	699.1	722.3	644.2	659.9	731.0	697.7
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	640.6	629.2	636.4	609.7	584.8	604.3	628.9
<b>All industry groups(b)</b>	<b>687.7</b>	<b>678.8</b>	<b>700.3</b>	<b>671.9</b>	<b>664.3</b>	<b>669.9</b>	<b>683.3</b>

(a) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (b) For States other than Western Australia, includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1. (c) Base: Weighted average minimum hourly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

**TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 JANUARY 1981**

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change %	Index nos.(a) Australia
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Manufacturing—									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.(b)	177.32	185.29	183.22	175.15	180.48	178.71	180.03	10.3	904.3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	171.65	170.47	170.17	174.31	172.86	167.08	171.04	13.2	859.2
Food, drink and tobacco	180.32	180.12	180.00	175.66	166.68	173.00	178.88	11.6	898.5
Other manufacturing(b)	175.46	178.79	181.16	172.35	173.90	166.97	176.66	11.6	887.4
<i>All manufacturing groups(b)</i>	<i>174.76</i>	<i>175.27</i>	<i>176.14</i>	<i>174.38</i>	<i>172.56</i>	<i>170.20</i>	<i>174.90</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>878.5</i>
Transport and communication	174.56	177.48	183.99	179.67	177.97	180.13	177.62	8.7	892.2
Wholesale and retail trade	190.23	195.76	193.55	186.87	187.19	174.26	191.13	12.4	960.1
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	186.33	189.16	183.48	180.75	177.07	179.09	185.63	9.6	932.4
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	175.03	172.86	171.40	166.30	158.62	167.76	171.96	11.7	863.8
<b>All industry groups(b)</b>	<b>179.83</b>	<b>180.77</b>	<b>182.79</b>	<b>178.57</b>	<b>177.08</b>	<b>172.38</b>	<b>180.06</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>904.4</b>

(a) Base: Weighted average minimum weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (b) For States other than Western Australia, includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1.

**TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ALL GROUPS(a)**

(\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES									
1979—									
December	170.12	167.77	170.43	167.12	165.34	167.20	170.75	166.46	168.81
1980—									
January	178.08	175.19	179.14	174.75	173.05	174.71	178.71	174.18	176.66
February	178.17	175.20	179.30	174.74	174.03	174.76	178.71	174.46	176.79
March	178.42	175.62	180.30	175.12	174.06	175.71	179.16	174.84	177.20
April	178.61	175.79	180.84	175.36	174.24	175.83	179.36	175.11	177.44
May	178.69	176.14	181.30	175.50	174.84	176.22	179.59	175.41	177.70
June	178.66	176.21	181.30	175.56	175.20	176.27	179.59	175.49	177.74
July	186.36	184.34	189.12	182.91	181.75	183.76	187.28	183.24	185.46
August	186.41	184.44	189.58	183.06	181.76	184.02	187.36	183.44	185.59
September	186.94	185.11	190.51	183.21	182.12	184.22	187.62	184.38	186.16
October	187.26	185.62	191.12	183.91	183.28	184.38	188.05	184.98	186.66
November	187.31	185.63	191.12	183.95	183.62	184.40	188.05	185.08	186.70
December	187.33	185.72	191.15	183.99	183.65	184.40	188.07	185.16	186.75
1981—									
January	194.08	192.49	198.14	190.81	188.26	191.20	194.95	191.52	193.40
ADULT FEMALES									
1979—									
December	154.56	154.36	155.52	154.58	152.29	149.58	147.02	160.76	154.37
1980—									
January	161.45	161.26	162.57	161.53	158.63	156.32	153.63	167.87	161.25
February	161.50	161.32	162.57	161.59	158.67	156.32	153.63	167.96	161.30
March	161.75	161.40	162.66	161.70	158.67	156.57	153.67	168.21	161.45
April	162.32	161.62	163.43	162.17	159.67	156.97	154.42	168.47	161.94
May	162.34	161.68	163.43	162.22	159.82	157.00	154.45	168.52	161.98
June	162.34	161.76	163.47	162.22	159.90	157.00	154.45	168.58	162.01
July	171.44	171.57	171.24	169.74	166.59	164.57	163.18	177.67	170.94
August	171.47	171.62	173.84	169.84	166.87	164.57	163.20	178.26	171.26
September	172.94	172.76	173.91	169.97	166.97	165.21	163.67	179.77	172.29
October	173.44	173.99	176.22	171.67	168.63	166.15	165.04	180.61	173.38
November	173.44	174.03	176.22	171.67	171.44	166.23	165.04	180.91	173.54
December	173.47	174.35	176.27	172.03	171.52	166.23	165.14	181.12	173.69
1981—									
January	179.83	180.77	182.79	178.57	177.08	172.38	171.24	187.71	180.06

(a) For States other than Western Australia, includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1.

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES: WAGE RATES INDEXES, JANUARY 1981(a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$)—	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Under 145.00	0.8	0.1	1.7	0.9	3.1	—	0.9
145.00 to 149.99	1.4	0.2	—	0.6	3.6	0.6	0.9
150.00 to 154.99	2.7	3.4	0.2	2.2	4.2	1.9	2.6
155.00 to 159.99	4.5	1.9	1.1	2.8	3.9	1.6	3.0
160.00 to 164.99	3.4	6.9	1.6	6.4	4.3	8.3	4.6
165.00 to 169.99	11.2	7.9	8.1	5.4	5.0	7.2	8.8
170.00 to 174.99	4.5	5.7	3.8	6.5	8.5	11.5	5.4
175.00 to 179.99	6.1	7.0	7.0	10.5	6.2	9.5	7.0
180.00 to 184.99	6.0	8.4	12.3	11.4	5.1	6.5	8.0
185.00 to 189.99	6.5	11.0	11.4	8.1	8.8	10.8	8.9
190.00 to 194.99	10.9	8.4	4.0	9.0	11.4	5.2	8.9
195.00 to 199.99	3.3	4.7	3.9	4.2	5.3	6.2	4.1
200.00 to 204.99	11.0	14.9	9.7	10.1	3.2	9.5	11.2
205.00 to 209.99	2.5	1.1	8.2	2.4	8.4	0.9	3.2
210.00 to 214.99	5.9	2.9	4.1	3.6	10.3	3.7	4.8
215.00 to 219.99	2.2	2.3	4.4	3.2	0.5	1.7	2.5
220.00 to 224.99	3.4	2.0	3.1	2.9	1.4	1.2	2.7
225.00 to 229.99	0.7	0.8	4.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.2
230.00 to 239.99	4.4	3.4	3.7	5.5	2.6	6.7	4.1
240.00 to 249.99	3.4	2.4	3.0	3.1	1.1	5.6	3.0
250.00 and over	5.2	4.8	4.9	1.1	2.9	1.0	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	194.08	192.49	198.14	190.81	188.26	191.20	193.40
Median \$(b)	192.50	189.40	193.71	187.50	187.40	185.00	189.82
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
State awards, etc.	0.8	—	2.3	2.4	1.2	—	1.1
All awards, etc.	0.4	—	1.7	0.7	1.1	—	0.5
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$)—	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Under 145.00	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.7	0.2	0.4
145.00 to 149.99	0.8	1.0	2.4	3.4	—	5.7	1.3
150.00 to 154.99	1.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	3.6	2.5	1.1
155.00 to 159.99	2.2	2.5	4.1	0.6	12.5	3.0	2.9
160.00 to 164.99	5.8	8.8	3.1	10.7	7.3	15.6	7.2
165.00 to 169.99	21.7	25.1	13.0	14.3	7.9	25.7	20.8
170.00 to 174.99	12.9	12.6	14.9	8.5	10.1	8.8	12.5
175.00 to 179.99	10.2	5.8	13.8	6.2	11.7	8.3	8.9
180.00 to 184.99	2.8	5.6	5.6	19.0	3.2	5.2	5.3
185.00 to 189.99	4.2	3.6	12.6	14.5	22.0	18.6	6.9
190.00 to 194.99	28.1	8.8	0.7	16.3	18.7	2.7	16.9
195.00 to 199.99	1.5	1.6	2.1	0.6	1.4	1.8	1.5
200.00 to 204.99	7.3	11.4	22.5	1.0	0.2	0.7	9.3
205.00 to 209.99	0.3	10.6	3.7	1.7	0.4	0.8	4.2
210.00 and over	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.7	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	179.83	180.77	182.79	178.57	177.08	172.38	180.06
Median \$(b)	176.40	174.10	178.40	181.50	177.00	169.20	176.40
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	—	0.4	—	1.0	—	—	0.2
State awards, etc.	0.4	—	0.4	1.2	—	—	0.3
All awards, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.1	—	—	0.3

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for July 1980 may be found in the July 1980 issue of this statement. (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates above the median and the other having rates below it, each group having 50 per cent of the relevant weights.